

We don't change the message. The message changes us!

Reflections

Hillview Baptist Church

Volume 2, Issue 8

Newsletter Date -- October 2023

Now Thank We All Our God . . . Or Not

By: Kurt Redschlag

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An ancient legend tells of two angels sent to earth, each with a large basket, to gather up the prayers of God's people. One was to gather up the petitions, and the other one the thanksgivings. The angel picking up the petitions soon became overwhelmed with the sheer number of them and had to send for a dozen more angels to help carry them back. The angel responsible for bringing back the thanksgivings, could carry them all in the palm of one hand. The sad truth is, the majority of people - even those inside the

church - are choosing not to thank God, at least not too often.

The sad truth is, the majority of people today - even those inside the church - are not exactly known for their thankfulness. The words "thank you"; are not heard very much in our age of entitlement. But while being thankful is almost a lost art in our day, the theme of thanksgiving flows through the Scriptures like a mighty Amazon River.



From Genesis to Revelation, we are called upon to be thankful. In 1 Chronicles 16:8, 9, 25 we read: "Give thanks to the Lord . . . sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts . . . For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise."

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For the Children

By: Gloria Swain

Our Back-to-School Event was held on September 2, 2023. This event could be summarized in a few words: "Many hands make light work, but not without a

lead person with a vision, a heart, a purpose and a passion for the community. We got all that and more with Jo Legaspi at the helm.

The Planning

The prayer and organizing for this

event started months prior to September 2. Our first priority was volunteers to come on board. Once we knew that the help was there then we proceeded with more prayer, planning, obtaining donations and sponsors and how best

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Now Thank We All Our God . . . Or Not

By: Kurt Redschlag

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Thanksgiving is one of the most beautiful garments of grace with which Christians can adorn themselves.



The Psalmist reminds us to "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His love endures forever" (Psalm 136:1). And Paul calls on us to be "Always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Ephesians 5:20). Indeed, thanksgiving is one of the most beautiful garments of grace with which Christians can adorn themselves.

But why is God so insistent that we be thankful? Why are we commanded to offer God our gratitude? Let

me suggest two basic reasons.

First, we are called on to offer thanksgiving because of who God is. The fact is, the more intimately we know our awesome God, the more we are overwhelmed by his majesty, the more we stand in awe of his glory, the more we gaze upon his holiness, the more our hearts will overflow with thanksgiving. Indeed, gratitude flows from the hearts of those who recognize the greatness of our God. Thus the Psalmist invites us: "Let us come before him with thanksgiving . . . For the Lord is the great God" (Psalm 95:2, 3).

Second, we offer thanks to God because of what he has done for us. Read

Psalm 103:1-5, 8, 11, where David enumerates a litany of things that God, out of his heart of love, has done for us. Yes, thanksgiving will always gush forth from those who have tasted his unmerited love, who have experienced the depth of his marvelous grace, who have drunk deeply from the fountain of his endless mercy, who have found comfort in his day-by-day faithfulness, who have been the recipients of his limitless compassion, who have known his comfort when in the valley of sorrow.

Therefore, in light of who God is and because of what he has so generously given us from the storehouse of his grace, let our hearts ever and always be "overflowing with thankfulness" (Colossians 2:7b).



For the Children

By: Gloria Swain

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to involve our church and community families. By the time September 2nd rolled around we had 19 business sponsors, who donated door prizes by way of gifts and coupons. We also had enough volunteers to man ten individual fun stations for the kids to enjoy.

The Activities and Statistics

- Free haircuts for school children were provided by two students from Hair INC a hair dressing institute.
- The Edmonton Public Library gave out library cards.
- Free school supplies were donated by Hillview church members, some businesses and the local MLA's office. Our MLA's office also sent over four volunteers for the day along with two tents.
- A retired gentleman, donated ten hand-crafted bird houses.
- Keith and his band kept the crowd singing and clapping. The crowd enjoyed the music along with their hot dogs, Rice Krispie squares, lemonade and popsicles.
- Over 300 hot dogs

were handed out.

- Over 200 items of clothing were taken along with 15 Bibles!

The Volunteers

The majority of our volunteers came right from Hillview (H.B.C.), with a few coming from the community as well. Our star volunteer was 6-year-old Skyler. All she wanted in return

attention was in the handing out of prizes for the various events. We are working on a better strategy for next year. But we are happy to report that we ran out of prizes and most of the school supplies. Some remaining items were donated to Hillview School and they were happy to have them.



for her hard work was a name tag. She received a name tag and she certainly earned it. We cannot thank our volunteers enough for their support, hard work and community interaction. There is not enough room to list all of you, but God knows who all of you are. It is the regulars who come out and help with every HBC event. Those of you who have the gift of service and are willing to use it without being asked are special people.

The Glitches

Everything went better than we expected. The only problem that has been brought to our

cookie gathering each Monday. Thank you for bringing these events to our community. I am very excited for what is planned next" -- H

" You will never know the joy that came to my heart after volunteering with your church for the Back-to-School Event. I don't remember when

I had so much fun and laughed so much working with a group of church people. This was my first time back in a church after 30

years. Thank you for helping me on my journey" -- M

" My heart warms to see the torch being taken from those of us who used to be more involved. Thank you and rest assured we are keeping you and your team in our prayers" -- B & L

I have tried to acknowledge all the workers, volunteers and organizers, but really all of the praise and glory belongs to the one and only one who makes the impossible happen.

To God be the Glory!

The Comments

" What a wonderful afternoon! God blessed us with a beautiful day. My family felt so welcomed and we could see everything was prepared with love! We enjoyed a great afternoon. Thank you" -- JB

" I thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon of the high tea and then the pure joy of the Back-to-School Event for children and families in our neighbourhood. I've lived in this area and have been fortunate enough to be able to walk by the out-door coffee and

Thoughts on Revival!

By: Ardath Effa



**"As Christians
have we lost
our joy? We
need ...**

The recent Christian revival at Asbury University, Wilmore, Kentucky, reminds me of the revival that swept western Canada in the early 1950's, beginning in Saskatoon, SK, and eventually touching our church in Benton Harbor, Michigan. Dr. Erwin Lutzer has an accurate account of it in his book, "Flames of Freedom" which we have in our church library. Some of my observations come from his book as well as from personal experience.

What is revival? It is primarily the restoration of believers as a result of the work of the Holy Spirit. It is simply the Spirit of God fully controlling the surrendered life. Psalm 85:6 asks the Lord, "Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?" In Revelation 2:4, John says to the Ephesian Church, "I hold this against you.

You have forsaken your first love. Remember the height from which you have fallen. Repent and do the things you did at first." I have seen so much joy and love in someone who has just become a Christian. That is what revival brings. As Christians have we lost our joy? We need revival.

When pastoring Napier Parkview Baptist Church in Benton Harbor, Michigan, one of our church members approached Herman and told him about the revival meetings that were held in his son's church. There was a mighty outpouring of the Holy Spirit and people's lives were being changed. The Sutura Twins were holding meetings in many churches and great things were happening. He suggested that maybe our

church could also schedule revival meetings with the Sutas. Herman discussed this with the Board, then contacted the Sutas. They provided some available dates. They indicated the meetings could go on for 3 or 4 weeks or more, depending upon the working of the Holy Spirit. Wow! Meetings every night for 3-4 weeks??

We decided to have the meetings and many lives were changed. We learned to call sin "sin" and to confess it and ask forgiveness of God and of others. Marriages on the verge of breaking up were restored. Broken family relationships were dealt with, forgiveness took place and love was renewed. At the close of each meeting an invitation was given for people to spend time in the prayer room while the Holy Spirit worked in their hearts. What a lot of weeping and repentance occurred during those times. Many people became filled with

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Letters to the Editor:

Dear Editor,
I feel I should write you in response to Brian's story on karaoke night at Hillview, specifically the classic duet that Norm and I abused in so many ways. I want to provide some background on what happened.



According to the internet, karaoke is a type of interactive entertainment usually offered in clubs or bars. So when Norm came home one day and told me the church was having a karaoke night, I was a bit surprised but thought it was a fun idea. Norm goes on to say that he signed us up to sing, "I Got You Babe" by Sonny and Cher. "I don't think so", says I and put my foot down! I was not going to make a fool out of myself.

Fast forward a few weeks and we are at karaoke night. That's right my "I don't think so" declaration is about to be squashed. Before I could elegantly back out we are handed microphones and ushered to centre stage. This is happening, we are the opening act! Before I

know it the music plays and the words appear and we're belting out, "I Got You Babe". It wasn't pretty, but my goodness, it was fun. The night continued and we all had a blast singing along with some great old songs. I found out we have some amazing hidden talent in our church. It was a great night of food, fun, fellowship and of course singing and although it wasn't my most glamorous moment I would do it again.



Gabriele Bleick

Dear Editor,
I have a request to Hillview people. When you think about the Christmas season, what is one feeling that comes to mind? For us, it's joy. And the joy of knowing the good news that Jesus is God with us is something we can't contain! Let's help spread that joy this Christmas with Alexandra, our Compassion Child, by sending her a Christmas card filled with words of encouragement and truth. A personal Christmas Greeting brings much-needed

hope and joy to, not only the sponsored child, but to the entire family. It is a tangible expression of God's love and a powerful reminder of the Good News that Jesus is God with us. **Please take the time to write a Christmas card and leave it in my mailbox on or before October 22** as it must be received in headquarters for translation, before October 31, and forwarded to Peru in time for Christmas.

Gloria Swain



Hello Bill,
I am writing this letter as I feel it needs to be said, it is concerning our back to school party on September 2, 2023. I worked the registration desk, along with such a sweet couple, Brian and Evangeline Worobec, and I enjoyed it so much.

Countless people commented what a wonderful thing we are doing. It made me so proud to say our church cares about our community. People were so appreciative. I did not hear one negative thing and I saw so many smiles

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'I don't think so" say I, and put my foot down!

Evolution vs Creation - Part 2

By; Wayne Baker

This is a continuation from an introduction that appeared in the June issue of Reflections, Ed

INTRODUCTION:

The main argument for evolution is time. The earth and the creatures occupying earth were created over a long period of time. Based on radiometric dating of meteorites and moon rocks the world is 4.5 billion years old, give or take a few million. If this is true, how can the Genesis creation story also be true?

There are four methods to determine age:

- rock (i.e. sediment) layers,
- present processes,
- marker fossils, and
- carbon-14 and other radiometric dating



ROCK LAYERS:

The Geologic Column displays sedimentary rock layers, which evolutionists use to determine the age of artifacts like fossils found within the layers. Today young earth creationists generally believe the earth is no more

than 10,000 years old and the layers are from Noah's flood. Charles Lyell is called the father of modern Geology, and he challenged this Biblical understanding by proposing that these layers were the result of millions of years of erosion.

PRESENT PROCESSES:

In the 1700's, Professor James Hutton an expert in Plutonic Geology proposed that natural processes of today such as the erosion of Niagara Falls can be used to judge the effects of past geologic events. However, there are no natural processes that can be used to evaluate the impact of Noah's Flood on our planet. Basically, if the earth is covered with water will natural processes that are observable today, still apply?

In 1850 Charles Lyell, tried to determine the age of the earth by using Hutton's theory. As a test, he "guessed" the erosion rate of Niagara Falls, of one inch a year. Using this figure as the erosion rate of Niagara Falls he determined the Niagara River to be 30,000 years old. The problem is a newspaper 100 years before Lyell visited Niagara, published a drawing showing the

actual location of the Falls proving the rate of erosion to be fifteen or more inches per year. Basically, this means you cannot simply use unknowable erosion



fossil sample

rates to determine the age of the earth. Furthermore what would the impact of Noah's worldwide flood have on the earth's landscape?

MARKER FOSSILS:

Marker fossils are fossils of creatures which have become extinct at times we can accurately identify. Dinosaurs went extinct 64 million years ago. Clearly layers with dinosaur fossils are from the time dinosaur's roamed earth. Problems occur when we encounter

purportedly extinct animals living today. Sixty million years ago the Coelacanth's Fish species disappeared from the fossil record. Coelacanth's Fish were a "Marker Fossil". However, in 1936 a woman found a Coelacanth's Fish among the daily catch. This fish proved that some creatures or animals may leave no fossil trace for sixty plus million years, erasing the reliability of "Marker Fossils".

Fossils such as the Coelacanth's fish are used to determine the age of the various sedimentary layers, and then in turn the sedimentary layers helped to confirm the age of the fossils. This is called circular reasoning and is usually considered unacceptable by most scientists.

CARBON-14 DATING AND RADIOMETRIC DATING:

Carbon-14 dating is used to date the age of organic materials. It cannot

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Niagara (Horseshoe) Falls

Thoughts on Revival

By: Ardath Effa

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joy and a renewed love for God. Such sins like worry, bitterness, broken relationships, hatred, pride and others were dealt with and restoration was made and forgiveness given. To confess and forsake such sins is the beginning of revival.

I remember what a hunger I suddenly had for

the Word of God. Also Herman noticed a big change in their board meetings. Where they used to deliberate over issues for a long time, after the revival they prayed for unity and for God's direction and unanimous decisions were quickly reached.

Erwin Lutzer says, "Revival begins with God entrusting us with a glimpse of what we

are really like – a devastating and crushing experience. With the prophet, we are driven to despair and cry, 'Woe is me, for I am ruined!' (Is. 6:5). When we come to know that, revival has begun. Revival is not good Christians becoming better Christians, but Christians confessing their failure and wrongs, and being made to live again in Christ."



Evolution vs Creation - Part 2

By: Wayne Baker

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date inorganic materials such as rock, to determine the age of a structure they use organic material found within the structure. Some restrictions apply; evolutionists acknowledge and conform to these restrictions. To use carbon 14 dating, the sample must be younger than 50,000 years and older than 100 years. It assumes all living creatures take in carbon 14 until death and then the carbon 14 begins to decay at a constant known as half life rate.

Sedimentary rock can only be dated by indirect methods. If the layer is under igneous rock, it must be older; if located above the igneous rock it must be

younger than the igneous rock that can be dated. Radiometric dating can be used to date metamorphic and/or igneous rocks. The dating of metamorphic and igneous rocks is based on the natural radioactive decay of certain elements such as potassium and carbon thereby date ancient features/events.

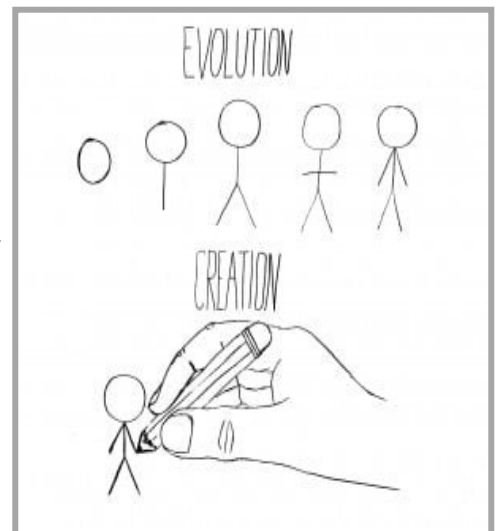
Knowledge of the original amounts of the parent (radioactive) element and daughter (product of decay) element is critical in determining the age of a formation using any radiometric method. The primary problem

with this approach is how to determine the initial amount of the radioactive material.

NEXT STEP:

In the next issue the focus will consider in detail carbon 14. Examining the increasing rate of carbon 14 decay along with some interesting suggestions for the debate

It assumes all living creatures takes in carbon 14 until death ...



Letters to the Editor (cont):



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on everyone's faces. So many people thanking us as they were leaving. Everyone went home with something: a game, school supplies or whatever they won at the games. It helped a lot of families. Isn't that what it is all about - people helping people.

A big thank you to all the volunteers. You made this special day succeed. It took a lot of planning and organizing and we did it. It

makes me proud to belong here. It was so much fun and I would do it again. I loved working the registration desk and meeting so many people.

I hope we can arrange more events like this and I will be there again as a volunteer. Makes my heart feel good. Thank you God for giving us a beautiful day and making so many people happy. I am sure God is pleased with us.

Wende Stonehouse

Greetings Bill, Would you consider including a few words on Samaritans Purse this month with an announcement about the Shoebox Packing Party planned for **October 20th**?

Did you know - Samaritan's Purse Canada is celebrating 50 years this year! Samaritan's Purse launched Operation Christmas Child in 1993 with a few thousand boxes from Canada and the United States. As of 2022, over 15 million shoebox gifts have been sent by Canadians around the world and over 200 million shoeboxes have been sent to thousands of children. To everyone, thank you for supporting this work through prayer and giving. Here at Hillview, we are getting ready to start packing shoeboxes. We

have 100 boxes from Samaritan's Purse to pack with items that we have been collecting during the past year. Will you help with our first ever "Packing Party" on October 20th at 7 pm? Hot chocolate and cookies will be served after the work is done!

Collection Sunday is November 12th. See the display in the foyer for ideas, take a box or two and a brochure and start filling your own box(es). Truly, it can be so much fun. Prayer cards are also available. Prayer is the most important part of this ministry. Thanks,

Donalda Nelson

Donalda, I did not need to write a story, your letter covered everything that needs to be said. I could not improve on it. Ed.



Athena - living in the Philippines

"Every shoebox represents an opportunity to reach one more child with the Gospel of Jesus Christ" Franklin Graham, founder of Samaritan's Purse.

Building and Flying Model Airplanes

By: Bill Holmes



Sieg, son Dan and grandson

Dear Readers, in the September issue, I included a story about my neighbour, Kent and his obsession - a 1976 Pontiac GTO. This month Sieg Hollmeyer agreed to tell us about his passion - model airplanes. He has been attending Hillview for 2-3 years and he is part of the men's Bible study. Incidentally he is turning 90 in December!

When did you get started with this hobby?

My start in radio-controlled aircraft was a long time ago, mid 1980 (1984/1985) on a basic level.

How do you begin in this rather unique activity?

My first plane was a glider, the starting method was a 100 ft surgical tubing stretched to 300 ft and hooked to the bottom of the plane, when released it propelled the plane into the air a short time. Movement of the plane is controlled by a transmitter radio. When you are starting to fly aircraft, you engage in a powerful fight with nature (gravity). After the gliders, I built motor-controlled planes, motor sizes ranging from 0.045 cubic centimeters (ie qcm) to 4.5 qcm.

Did you build the planes from scratch or kits?

As I got started, and throughout the years of building the planes, I used kits.

How many planes have you crashed or have flown away into the sunset?

I lost numerous fights with nature and have crashed many planes, but most of the time I was able to rebuild them. Rebuilding the planes was a joy and I loved the experience of flying the plane again.

Do you have a favourite or special plane? What is the biggest?

The planes I built had a wingspan from 18 inches to 9 feet. One of the planes I built was with the help of my granddaughter, Tina, who was going through a school program about aeronautics. Her ability to build part of the plane was amazing. It was actually difficult for me to tell which part of the plane Tina built. One plane I purchased and flew was a 12 ft wingspan glider. The planes I built and flew were of different types, high, mid, low wing positions and biplane. Flying biplanes gave me the greatest enjoyment.

Because of your recent move, you had to leave your planes behind. Do you miss it?

Flying these motor-controlled planes requires a high degree of concentration. A plane flying away from you, positions you in the pilot's seat behind the motor with the controls functioning normal, left is left; right is right.

Returning, the plane is flying towards you and puts you in front of the plane's motor, changing the controls so left becomes right; and right becomes left. My time flying ended some years ago because of the high degree of concentration it required

Any major issues with this hobby?

The hobby of radio-controlled aircraft flying is expensive. Also Chris, my wife, would frequently complain that we lived in an airplane hanger rather than a house!

Thanks Sieg,

Hillview people - Do you know someone that has a hobby, a passion or activity? I would love to include their story in the November issue. I have run out of possible candidates, so it is up to you. I will assist you, with questions and do the final editing, just let me know of someone. Story deadline - October 20.



Son Dan, Sieg and unknown aircraft

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Dates to enter into your phone:



October:

- ◆ Coffee most Sundays
- ◆ 8th - no coffee, time to go for lunch with potential new friends
- ◆ 15th - lunch provided
- ◆ 20th - Christmas Shoebox event, see page 8 for more information
- ◆ 22nd - Christmas Cards due date for Alexandra - see page 7 for more information
- ◆ 28th - 1-3pm garden clean-up:
4-6pm Pumpkin Mania craving or carving for all ages and abilities

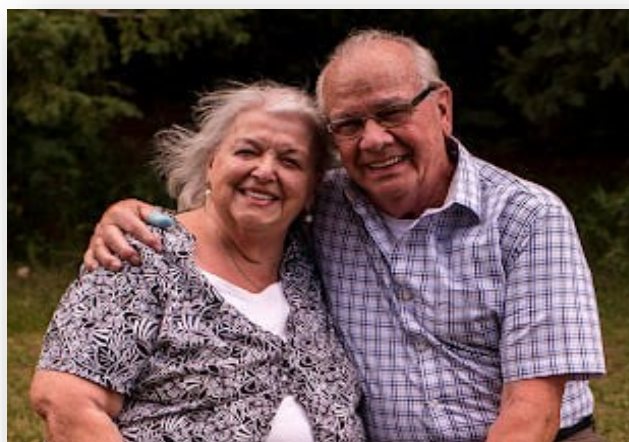
November:

- ◆ Coffee most Sundays
- ◆ 7th - Letter writing to our missionaries
- ◆ 11th - Remembrance Day
- ◆ 12th - no coffee, a chance to invite someone new for lunch
- ◆ 19th - lunch provided
- ◆ 25th - Christmas card and ornament activity



Canada, You are my Thanksgiving

By: Chris Hollemeyer



Christiane and Siegfried Hollemeyer
- married for a measly 66 years!

October in Canada is the thanksgiving month and I am especially thankful because I came here from a tattered and torn country; a country

in which war and communism had raged. As a small child begging for in which war and communism had raged. As a small child begging for shelter, warmth and food, you gave me all that I needed, plus something I had never known, freedom. It was a chance for a future through your noble hospitality which was available to everyone who wanted it. In this manner you created a bright shining diamond sparkling with many nationalities, each offering something unique of

their culture. God has blessed you, Canada, with many children of many races and creeds. Thank you, God, that I can be a part of living in this wonderful country. I am honoured and proud to be a Canadian, because Canada is really my home.

Chris came to Canada around 1952 with 8 other family members. Their new life started out in the tiny "village" of Stony Plain, Alberta. She had to learn English at the age of 12. Pretty amazing! Ed.